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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)/USSR

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SUBJECT Russian Efforts to Increase
Synthetic Rubber Production

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. According to Russian officials in the Buna SAC in Schkopau, the Russians intend to step up the production of synthetic rubber to at least twice the amount they are now producing, and in as short a time as possible. Increase of synthetic rubber production in Russia has a high priority for manpower, equipment, and raw materials.

2. Within the framework of this production increase program, the Russians requested the Buna SAC to procure the necessary equipment for the operation of a carbide oven with a production capacity of 3,000 tons of Buna per month. For this purpose, a transformer of 40,000 kilovolt amperes is needed. The Russian order stipulated that the Buna SAC have one such transformer built for its own operation as a pilot transformer, and that the blueprints be sent to Russia, in case of successful operation, along with improvements and adjustments, for the construction in Russia of nine more such transformers and ovens.

3. At the end of December 1949, the Buna SAC asked the VEM-TRO in Oberschöneweide* whether it could construct the transformer in question. TRO answered in the negative due to the lack of skilled manpower needed for the job. A Buna representative visited the AEG firm in Stuttgart - Bad Cannstatt in February 1950 in an attempt to inquire about the technical angles of the construction of the transformer in demand.

Comment: VEM (Vereinigung Volkseigener Betriebe des Elektromaschinenbaues), a division of the DDR Ministry of Economics, comprises all people's owned works in the field of electro-machine construction. The TRO (Transformatorenwerk Oberschöneweide) is an individual enterprise of the VEM. It is the former AEG transformer factory at 83 Wilhelminenhofstrasse, Berlin-Oberschöneweide.

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